



October 24, 2025

The Weekender

Prayer: Breathing Like You Are Home

Rev Drew West

I pause to breathe in
the Rocky's shadow as if
it was the first time.



Last week, I traveled with my family to where I grew up: Longmont, Colorado. Longmont is a city of 100,000 people just north of Boulder. I haven't lived in Colorado since 2014, when Amanda and I, newly married, packed our bags for Lusaka, Zambia, before finding our way to Georgia in 2018. We loved the experience of living in different places, but Zambia and Thomasville, as much as we loved them, were never home. (For the record, Fayetteville feels much more like home than the others.)

When my family and I landed in Colorado, a strange feeling came over me—I felt at home. When I Googled, "What is the feeling of being home?" the AI overview suggested that home feels like a place of safety, comfort, and belonging. It is a place where you can be yourself. But truth be told, this is not the only place where I feel this way—I experience this in prayer.

Prayer has been one of the main things that has sustained me while living in places that I wouldn't so easily call home. It is like a doorway to belonging. When you step through, it's as if God invites you to remove your shoes and stay awhile—as long as your schedule allows—because here, you belong. In prayer, we can finally breathe. Not the shallow breaths that carry us from one task to the next, but deep, slower breaths that remind us there is something sacred to cherish in this moment.

The haiku I wrote above was an attempt to bottle that experience—of looking from where I sat to the Rocky Mountains that tower over Colorado's Front Range. There, I tried to take a long, deep breath and savor the air, because there is something special about being home. The next time you pray, imagine stepping into the living room of a home-like place. Let the welcoming grace of Christ wash over you—and breathe.



STEWARDSHIP CONSECRATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 26, 2025

8:45 AM 11:00 AM (Sanctuary & Online)

[Online link active at 11 AM and after](#)

Psalm 84:1-7; Colossians 3:12-17

"Disciples Make The Difference"

The Rev. Kaylen Short

CURRENT NEWS

DISCIPLES *make the* **DIFFERENCE**

Stewardship Consecration and Celebration Sunday

During both services this Sunday, October 26, we will consecrate the financial commitments we have made for 2026. You are invited to bring a commitment card to the service as we look forward to a new year in ministry together.

Messy Church Tomorrow! Saturday, October 25

"Spooky Church" comes to Messy Church tomorrow, Saturday, October 25, from 11 AM to 1 PM. This event includes Trunk or Treat!

If you are helping with the Trunk-or-Treat event, please have your vehicle in place by 10:30 and decorated by 11 AM. **You can still join in!**



All Saints' Worship November 2nd

During both worship services on November 2, we will remember and give thanks for the members of our church family who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints' Day. There will also be a special time for you to light a candle in memory of the saints in your own life as you remember those whose love and faith have shaped your journey. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful time of remembrance and celebration as we remember:

Blanche Babcock, Bettie Smith, James Watkins, Sue Sheddan, Robbie Gray, Ken Hazelton, Sara Morgan, Barbara Williams, Roger Roberts, Pete Towell, Robert Ladd, Jeannie Hixon, Sally Dunham, Dan Springer, and Mildred Fitzgerald.

While we always do our best to keep track of all our Saints, please let us know if you notice an unintentional exclusion.



The Grill at Christmas Marketplace serves hot lunch to our guests & vendors, and raises over \$1000 for our local charities in just over 3 hours! You can help by donating a batch of chili or vegetable beef soup. You can find the [chili and soup recipes here](#). Please deliver your chili or soup donation to the gym kitchen by 9 AM on Saturday, November 1. Any questions, contact Janet Baileys or Lea Agnew. Hope you'll join us!



Timeless Treasures Donation Items

We need your gently-used, sellable items for our Timeless Treasures sale. All proceeds go to local charities. Donations will be accepted in the Fellowship Hall beginning **Monday, Oct. 27, through 12 noon on Thursday, Oct. 30.** Contact Lauren Davis for more information.

Acceptable Items (including but not limited to):

Entertainment: Books, CDs, DVDs, Record Albums, games, puzzles, children's toys & stuffed animals

Housewares: Home décor, baskets, vases, floral centerpieces, picture frames

Kitchenware: Coffee cups, mugs, glasses, plates & bowls

Linens: Towels, napkins, tablecloths, placemats, blankets, quilts, table runners, throw rugs, bathmats

Furniture: Chairs, rocking chairs, tables, end tables, cabinets, dressers, lamps & lampshades, room rugs

Holiday decorations: Christmas, Halloween, July 4th, Easter

Jewelry: Necklaces, earrings, rings, brooches

Sporting goods: golf clubs, footballs, bicycles, volleyballs

Accessories: Purses, hats, belts, scarves

Kitchen tools & utensils: Mixers, blenders, appliances, mixing bowls, spatulas, plastic containers

Office & paper products: Scrapbooking materials, copy paper, paper cutter

Health & beauty: Curling irons, blow dryers, hand mirrors, bathroom accessories

Items not accepted: Computers, printers, cell phones, mattresses, cribs, clothing, shoes.

All items must be delivered clean, unbroken and in working condition.

Please be sure to have all your donations delivered **no later than noon on Thursday, Oct. 30.**

Tax-deductible donation receipts will be available in the Fellowship Hall.



Storybook Lane: Wednesday Night, October 29

A Sensory Sensitive Trick-or-Treat Experience

October 29 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Sunshine Trick or Treaters:

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church is presenting an opportunity for individuals with special needs to experience door-to-door trick or treating without all the stress! *Have you been looking for a special experience like this?* Join us in the upstairs hallway of building C where each door will be decorated in a storybook theme. All ages are welcome!

Volunteers and candy still welcome!

Would you like to help provide this unique experience for our community? We need donations of non-chocolate and non-nut candy, party favors, and individually packaged pretzels, crackers or other non-sweet treats. Donation boxes are located outside the Sanctuary and the entrance from Parking Lot B.

Can you help pass out treats? We need volunteers to simply hand out goodies to guests at the classroom doors. If you can help, please contact Jami Maguire.



Titus II - November 4

Start the season on an upbeat note! Glenda Martinez will present a program on The Little Drummer Boy.

Menu: Turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, and dessert.

Please make your reservation by Thursday, October 30.

Youth Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for a few helping hands to support our Wednesday youth program:

8th-Period Vehicle Drivers (2:00–4:00 p.m.)

Volunteers are needed to help pick up students from various schools across Fayette County.

8th-Period Room Monitors (4:00–5:00 p.m.) Volunteers are needed to spend time with our youth in The Foundry during their homework hour.

If you're interested in serving or would like more information, please contact youth@fayettevillefirst.com



Pecans! Still only \$8 per bag!

It's pecan time! You pay \$8 for each 12 oz. bag of pecans: that's no price increase from last year ... what a deal!

Only need a few bags? Buy them at the Christmas Marketplace on Saturday, November 1.

To place a large order for personal use and gifts, [complete this order form](#) or get one on Sunday. Then drop the form along with your

exact payment in an envelope marked "Pecan Sales" at the church office or in the collection plate by **Sunday, November 2.**

Pecans will be available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall on November 6 and 7 from 1 to 2 PM and at 12 noon on November 9.

Make checks out to United Women in Faith or UWF.

Pecan Time!

*Holiday Baking
Gifts
Freeze & Enjoy*

We are committed to raising funds for others. All proceeds will go to a worthy cause supported by UWF. With pecans, everybody wins!



Acolyte Training

Incoming 3rd graders are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 11 AM service on November 2. After lunch, there will be training for acolytes and crucifiers. We invite those who are already serving to join us!

SAGE
SENIOR ADULTS
GOING EVERYWHERE



Our next **SAGE (Senior Adults Going Everywhere)** is scheduled for **Thursday November 20th**. We are going to Trilith Studios here in Fayetteville. The maximum number of folks that we can accommodate is 36. Presently we are over that number and have started a waiting list (in case anyone has to cancel). Also, we will plan another trip in the Spring for those who couldn't make it in November. Those who are signed up need to go ahead and pay their \$33.00 by Monday November 17th. Make checks payable to the Church and mark for SAGE Trip. Also, you will need to sign a waver to attend. The Church Office can assist you with this.

Angel Tree – Share the Joy of Christmas!

Our annual Angel Tree will be available at the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, November 2, 2025. This mission provides an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with Bloom foster children, with gifts distributed at the Bloom Christmas Party.

How to Participate:

1. Choose and sign out an angel ornament from the tree.

* If you select an angel when no one is available to assist you, please sign your angel ornament out on the clipboard provided.

2. Purchase the items listed on your angel's wish list.

3. Return the unwrapped gifts and the angel ornament by Sunday, November 23.

Gifts may be returned to the Church Office or the Visitor Center. Someone will be available in the Visitor Center on Sundays to assist you.

For questions, please contact Charlotte McAdams at 404-862-9791 or charlotte.mc2344@gmail.com.



Church Directories are being printed

Our 2025 church directories will be here soon! The book should be available later in October or first of November with up-to-date information. We appreciate your patience as many have pitched in to get this to you.

Those who **had a photo taken by The Portrait Café** will receive one FREE printed directory per family unit photographed. We will be reserve one for you.

Those who **submitted photos, reused a previous photo, or just want a copy or extra copies** may order directories. Please email admin@fayettevillefirst.com with your contact information and number of requested copies. Cost will be \$10 each. Payment may be made by check, cash, or online with "Directory" clearly indicated as a memo/note.



Wednesday Night Supper 5 pm in the Gym

Let's eat together! Adults: \$10 Children under 13: \$7

Sign up for the weekly meal by noon each Monday. Contact the church office at 770-461-4313 or admin@fayettevillefirst.com.

October 29 - Olive Garden - *Please note we will be in the gym this week

Lasagna, Salad, Breadsticks, & dessert



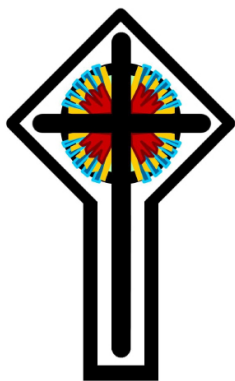
October is our month! Pantry needs at Fayette Samaritans

Donations are one way to help those in our community with food insecurity and other needs. Food and clothing donations may be placed in the hallway cart near the gym or dropped by the church office.

Volunteers are also needed in the food pantry, clothes closet, receptionist area, and as interviewers with a 3 hour commitment each week.

Most Needed List: Canned Chicken, Tuna, Dried Beans, Pasta Sauce, Oatmeal - single serving, Grits - single serving, Corn Soup, Bar Soap, Jelly, Feminine Products

Clothes Pantry Needs: Socks (new or used) and Underwear (new only) in all sizes for adults and children, and clothing sizes 4 and above.



October 20, 2025 Financials

Operating Budget 2025

Year-to-Date Receipts	\$904,165.51
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$956,785.49
Difference	-\$52,619.98

Benevolence

Benevolence funds received this week: \$60.00

147 Families Assisted Year-To-Date: Total distributed \$36,041.77

You can continue your financial support in many ways:

Online giving: [Click here.](#)

Mail check to church or place it in the drop box at the church office.

Use electronic funds transfer with your bank.

Regular Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM (closed 12-1 PM lunch)
Closed Fridays

AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays, Wednesdays,
Fridays, Saturdays 7 PM; Thursdays 7:30 AM

NA Meetings: Thursdays 7:30 PM

inspired ...

WoofStock's Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, October 11th, a small team of volunteers from Fayetteville First UMC set up a booth at City Center Park for WoofStock, Fayetteville's annual celebration of pets and their people. Chase Leonard, Nancy Musselwhite, Sara Reams, and Pastor Kaylen spent the afternoon offering prayers, and lots of love to the many furry friends (and their humans!) who stopped by.

Throughout the day, there were wagging tails, slobbery kisses, and plenty of smiles as the team prayed for each animal and their family. It was a sweet reminder of how much joy and comfort our pets bring us and how deeply God's love shows up in all of creation.



The group also shared invitations to upcoming events like Trunk or Treat, Messy Church, and Sunday morning worship. The booth became a great spot for conversation, laughter, and simple moments of connection with folks from the community.

All in all, it was a joyful afternoon filled with sunshine, new friendships, and a whole lot of puppy love.

